



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

August 27, 2002

OFFICE OF
ENFORCEMENT AND
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

SPEECH

SUBJECT: Swearing-in w/ Administrator
FROM: John Peter Suarez
TO: EPA HQ Washington, DC

SWEARING IN REMARKS

JOHN PETER SUAREZ

- THANK YOU, GOVERNOR WHITMAN, FOR THOSE GRACIOUS REMARKS; I ONLY HOPE THAT I CAN LIVE UP TO THE EXPECTATIONS OF WHAT YOU HOPE FOR FROM YOUR ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE;

- FIRST, I WANT TO WELCOME ALL OF MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS WHO HAVE MADE THE JOURNEY TO BE HERE TODAY WITH US AS I TAKE THE OATH OF OFFICE; I AM DEEPLY HONORED AND HUMBLLED THAT SO MANY OF YOU WOULD TAKE THE TIME, OUT OF YOUR BUSY LIVES, TO SPEND A LITTLE TIME

WITH US HERE TODAY;

- THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH; THIS IS PROBABLY ONE OF THE HAPPIEST MOMENTS OF MY PROFESSIONAL CAREER, AND I AM DELIGHTED TO SHARE IT WITH THE PEOPLE I LOVE;

- AS I TAKE THE OATH OF OFFICE, I MUST BEGIN BY THANKING PRESIDENT BUSH, FOR THE CONFIDENCE AND TRUST THAT HE HAS PLACED IN ME BY ASKING ME TO DO THIS JOB;

- AND I MUST THANK GOVERNOR WHITMAN, WHO REALLY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ME RECEIVING THIS NOMINATION, AND IS LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR GETTING ME CONFIRMED;

- AND AS I THANK THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND GOVERNOR WHITMAN, I MUST TELL YOU THAT IT FEELS LIKE AN AWFULLY LONG WAY TO HAVE COME FOR A KID FROM OLD BRIDGE NEW JERSEY;

- YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN TO A FEW SUCH SWEARING IN CEREMONIES AS THIS, AND I'VE OFTEN HEARD THE PERSON BEING SWORN IN SAY THAT THEIR NEW JOBS ARE DREAMS COME TRUE; THAT IT IS THE HIGHLIGHT OF THEIR CAREERS; SOMETHING THEY'VE ALWAYS WANTED;

- WELL, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DESCRIBE THIS FOR ME;

- I CAN'T SAY THIS IS MY DREAM COME TRUE, BECAUSE I NEVER DARED
DREAM THIS HIGH;

- I NEVER THOUGHT THAT I WOULD BE SO LUCKY, SO BLESSED, TO BE HERE
TODAY; AND I AM PROFOUNDLY HUMBLLED BY IT ALL;

- SO AS I WAS PREPARING MY REMARKS LAST NIGHT, I KIND OF GOT STUCK
RIGHT ABOUT HERE;

- I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO SAY; I DIDN'T HAVE THE SPEECH THAT I HAD
BEEN WAITING A LIFETIME TO GIVE;

- AND SO I ASKED MYSELF, WHILE LISTENING TO THE BAND THE TALKING
HEADS, "HOW DID I GET HERE?"

- AND THEN IT BECAME SO CLEAR WHAT HAS ALLOWED THIS OPPORTUNITY
TO BE PRESENTED TODAY;

- BECAUSE IT IS NOT A REFLECTION ON WHAT I HAVE DONE THAT THIS JOB IS OFFERED TO ME; I DID NOT DO THIS;

- INSTEAD, IT IS A TESTAMENT TO ALL THAT YOU, MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY, HAVE GIVEN TO ME, THAT ALLOWS ME TO STAND BEFORE YOU TODAY;

- AND SO TO ALL OF YOU, I SAY THANK YOU;

- TO MY MOTHER AND FATHER, WHO RAISED ALL OF THEIR CHILDREN TO BE STRONG AND PASSIONATE, TO BE CARING PEOPLE, AND TO REMEMBER WHERE THEY CAME FROM; THANKS MOM;

- MY FATHER COULD NOT BE HERE TODAY, AND THE FATHER I KNEW GROWING UP IS ALREADY LOST TO ME, A VICTIM OF ALZHEIMERS DISEASE THAT HAS ROBBED HIM OF HIS WELL EARNED PEACE IN THE TWILIGHT OF HIS LIFE;

- BUT THE STUBBORN, DIFFICULT, AND COMMITTED FATHER THAT I DID KNOW WOULD BE VERY HAPPY, AND EVEN PROUD I THINK, THAT, AS HE LIKES TO SAY NOW, "THAT IMPORTANT WOMAN FROM NEW JERSEY LIKES YOU;"

- SO THANKS DAD; FOR MAKING ME WORK SO HARD, AND FOR NOT GIVING UP ON ME;

- THERE ARE ALSO MY SISTERS, ELISABETH AND CHRISTINE, AND MY BROTHER PAUL, WHO HAVE PLAYED INSTRUMENTAL ROLES IN SHAPING WHO I AM, AND TO WHO I AM IMMENSELY GRATEFUL; EACH OF MY SIBLINGS IS AN INTRIGUING AND AMAZING PERSON, AND I AM SO THANKFUL FOR ALL THAT THEY HAVE SHARED WITH ME;

- THAT BEING SAID, GOVERNOR, THERE IS ONE OF MY SIBLINGS WHO IS HERE TODAY WHO I'D LIKE TO MENTION BRIEFLY;

- MY SISTER CHRISTINE PROBABLY CAME THE CLOSEST TO LEADING ME ASTRAY IN MY LIFE; SHE HELPED ME SNEAK OUT AT NIGHT WHEN WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE SLEEPING; SHE TAUGHT ME THE ART OF PRETENDING TO COME HOME, ONLY TO SLIP OUT THE BEDROOM WINDOW;

- MOM, I HAVE SOME NEWS FOR YOU; WE WEREN'T GOING TO THE MILLBROOK DINER FOR CHEESECAKE EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHT;

- CHRISTINE KNEW ALL THE TRICKS; AND I COPIED EVERY ONE OF THEM;

- BECAUSE WHATEVER MY SISTER CHRISTINE DID, I HAD TO FOLLOW IN HER FOOTSTEPS;

- WHEN SHE WENT TO SCHOOL IN BOSTON, I KNEW IT WAS THE ONLY PLACE TO GO TO COLLEGE;

- WHEN SHE SIGNED UP FOR BASIC TRAINING WITH THE ARMY, I THOUGHT I NEEDED TO "BE ALL I COULD BE" TOO; SHE OF COURSE WAS SMART ENOUGH TO GET OUT, BUT I FORGOT THAT PART;

- I HATE TO ADMIT THAT WAS SORT OF DISTURBING PATTERN; SHE ALWAYS HAD A LITTLE BETTER JUDGMENT THAN I;

- WHEN SHE DECIDED TO GO TO LAW SCHOOL, IT BECAME A CAREER OPTION FOR ME;

- AND AS WE BEGAN CAREERS IN LAW, SHE OFFERED ME SOUND ADVICE, AND GUIDANCE, AND SUPPORT;

- I AM SO HONORED TO BE TAKING THIS OATH OF OFFICE TODAY, TO DO THIS

JOB;

- BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT IN MY OWN FAMILY, THERE IS A LAWYER WHO COULD DO THE JOB BETTER;

- WHO IS FAR MORE SKILLED THAN I;

- AND THERE IS A PERSON WHO NEVER STOPS TEACHING HER KID BROTHER ALL THE TRICKS;

- LIKE HOW TO BE A GOOD PERSON;

- SO THANKS CHRISTINE, FOR ALL OF THE LOVE AND SUPPORT, GUIDANCE AND FRIENDSHIP, THAT YOU HAVE SHARED WITH ME THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES;

- AND OF COURSE, THERE IS MY BEAUTIFUL, PATIENT, LOVING WIFE, NATALIE;

- WHEN WE FIRST MET, NATALIE HAD THE GOOD SENSE TO REALIZE (QUICKLY I MIGHT ADD) THAT SHE SHOULD STAY AS FAR AWAY FROM ME AS POSSIBLE; SHE WANTED NOTHING TO DO WITH SOME THIRD YEAR LAW

STUDENT MORE INTERESTED IN RUGBY AND RUGBY PARTIES THAN IN ANYTHING ELSE;

- LUCKY FOR ME, ONCE I DID GRADUATE, I HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE TO MEET HER AGAIN; AND THIS BEAUTIFUL AND PATIENT AND THOUGHTFUL AND CARING PERSON WAS SOMEHOW STILL WILLING TO TALK TO ME;

- AND MY LUCK NEVER DID RUN OUT; AND I MANAGED TO SWEET TALK HER IN TO MARRYING ME;

- AND THROUGHOUT MY CAREER, NO MATTER WHERE OUR JOURNEY TOOK US, SHE WAS THERE FOR ME; PROVIDING ME THE LOVE AND SUPPORT THAT GUIDES ME EVERY DAY;

- AND WHEN I TOOK A JOB WITH THE DIVISION OF GAMING ENFORCEMENT, I PROMISED HER THAT ONCE THAT JOB WAS DONE, I WOULD BE SOME HIGH ROLLING CASINO EXECUTIVE, AND WE WOULD BE LIVING LARGE;

- AND SO SHE PATIENTLY WAITED FOR ME AS I PURSUED MY CAREER IN GAMING; AND THEN GOVERNOR WHITMAN CALLED ABOUT THIS JOB;

- NOW GOVERNOR I MUST TELL YOU, THIS WAS NOT AN EASY SELL;

- I TRIED TO EXPLAIN ALL THE BENEFITS OF WORKING WITH A HOSTILE CONGRESS, OF LIVING IN A CITY WHERE THE COST OF HOUSING IS OUTRAGEOUS, OF LOTS OF TRAVEL AND TIME AWAY FROM HOME, AND OF THE LONG HOURS;

- AND AFTER I CONVINCED HER ALL THOSE THINGS WOULD WORK OUT, I THEN HAD TO TELL HER THAT ONCE I WAS CONFIRMED, I HAD TO TAKE A PAY CUT;

- WHAT A DEAL, RIGHT?

- WELL, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN PERFECTLY REASONABLE FOR HER TO SAY NO; ENOUGH; INDEED, MOST SPOUSES WOULD HAVE;

- BUT NOT HER; BECAUSE THIS IS ABOUT NATALIE TOO; FOR THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT I WOULD NOT AND COULD NOT DO THIS JOB WITHOUT HER;

- INDEED, I COULD NOT DO THIS LIFE WITHOUT HER; YOU ARE MY BEST AND MOST TRUSTED FRIEND, AND I LOVE YOU; SO THANK YOU NATALIE;

- AND TO MY CHILDREN, CHLOE, AND LAINA, AND MAXWELL, THANK YOU TOO, FOR MAKING EVERY DAY THAT I SPEND WITH YOU THE BEST DAY YET;

- AND SO, TO ALL OF YOU, MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY, I SAY THANK YOU;

- FOR THE SUPPORT THAT YOU HAVE GIVEN ME, AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT THAT YOU PROVIDE TO ME ON A DAILY BASIS;

- AND I CAN TELL YOU ALL THAT THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE, AND I AM READY FOR IT;

- IN THE FIVE MONTHS THAT I HAVE BEEN HERE AT THE EPA, I HAVE LEARNED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT THE VARIOUS STATUTES THAT WE ENFORCE;

- ABOUT RCRA, AND CERCLA, AND THE CLEAN WATER ACT, AND THE CLEAN AIR ACT;

- I HAVE LEARNED NOT ONLY WHAT THE ACRONYMS MEAN, BUT ALSO WHAT THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO DO;

- AND, AS WE ALL KNOW, THOSE LAWS ARE DESIGNED TO MAKE OUR AIR

CLEANER, OUR WATER PURER, AND OUR LAND BETTER PROTECTED;

- AND WE MUST DO THOSE THINGS, AND DO THEM WELL, SO THAT THE LEGACY WE LEAVE FOR OUR CHILDREN IS A PLANET THAT IS A WHOLE LOT CLEANER, AND A LITTLE BIT SAFER, AND A LITTLE BIT BETTER;

- WE CAN DO THOSE THINGS; AND IN THE OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE, WE WILL;

- ONE OF THE LUXURIES THAT I ENJOYED IN THE MONTHS BEFORE I WAS FINALLY CONFIRMED WAS TO LEARN A LOT ABOUT THE STATE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT WE IN THE OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE WERE DOING TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE;

- AND I CAN TELL YOU AS THE BRIEFINGS ROLLED OVER ME, I WAS AMAZED AT THE DEPTH OF KNOWLEDGE AND DEDICATION OF THE STAFF OF OECA, WHO WERE ALL SO COMMITTED TO DOING OUR MISSION WELL.

- AND WHAT ALSO AMAZED ME WAS THE BREADTH OF WORK THAT WE DO,
AND HOW IT IS THAT WE CAN AFFECT THE LIVES OF SO MANY PEOPLE, AND
CAN HELP CHANGE THE WORLD WE LIVE IN;

- AND BEING A PART OF THAT PROCESS, OF THAT TEAM IN OECA, IS A
REWARD IN AND OF ITSELF;

- AND I HAVE COME TO REALIZE THAT WE ARE IN FACT MAKING A
DIFFERENCE;

- BUT THERE ARE MANY CHALLENGES AHEAD;

- ALTHOUGH I GREW UP BY THE JERSEY SHORE, AND SPENT MANY A LONG
SUMMER DAY WITH MY FRIEND SCOTT HENNINGSEN BODY SURFING IN THE
WAVES, THERE ARE STILL FAR TOO MANY WATER BODIES THAT ARE
IMPAIRED, OR UNSAFE;

- IN MY WORLD, NOBODY SHOULD HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT GETTING SICK IF
THEY GO FOR A SWIM; NO PARENT SHOULD HAVE TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT
MAKING A DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT IF THEY LET THEIR CHILDREN PLAY IN

A STREAM;

- NOBODY SHOULD HAVE TO WONDER IF THE WATER FROM THEIR FAUCET IS BRINGING DISEASE AND SICKNESS TO THEIR HOME;

- AS GOVERNOR WHITMAN RECENTLY REMARKED, WATER, BOTH ITS AVAILABILITY AND QUALITY, IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES FOR THE NEXT CENTURY; AND WE MUST GET READY FOR THAT CHALLENGE;

- AND SO OVER THE COURSE OF THE NEXT FEW YEARS, I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH OUR WATER ENFORCEMENT DIVISION, THE OFFICE OF WATER, AND THE REGIONS TO ENSURE THAT IMPAIRED WATERWAYS ARE CLEANED UP, AND THAT OUR RIVERS ARE NOT STRESSED TO THE POINT OF BREAKING;

- I WANT TO WORK WITH THE OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE TO BRING COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE EFFORTS TO BEAR ON THE QUESTION OF WATER QUALITY, SO THAT WE CAN BRING AS MANY FACILITIES INTO COMPLIANCE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE; AND TO HELP IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF WATER IN PRIORITY WATERSHED AREAS, SO THAT THERE IS PLENTY OF PURE WATER FOR GENERATIONS TO COME;

- AIR QUALITY IS ALSO A CHALLENGE, AND A CHALLENGE THAT MUST BE MET; WE HAVE TOO MANY CODE RED DAYS, TOO MANY DAYS WHERE THE HEAT LITERALLY SMOTHERS YOU AS YOU WALK OUTSIDE;

- I KNEW WASHINGTON WAS GOING TO BE HOT, BUT I THOUGHT THE HEAT WOULD BE OF THE POLITICAL VARIETY;

- AND SO WE MUST TAKE ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS TO ENSURE THAT COMPANIES THAT FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THE CLEAN AIR ACT ARE HELD ACCOUNTABLE, AND TAKE STEPS TO CLEAN UP THEIR OPERATIONS;

- AND WORK TOWARDS REDUCING AIR POLLUTION FROM ALL SOURCES;

- I CAN TELL YOU THAT IN THE CONTEXT OF AIR ENFORCEMENT, WE HAVE DONE SOME PRETTY IMPRESSIVE WORK; BUT WE ARE NOT RESTING NOW;

- THERE ARE OTHER STATIONARY SOURCES THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED, AND WE MUST ALSO LOOK AT CONTINUED IMPACT OF MOBILE SOURCES, AND WHAT ROLE THEY PLAY IN IMPAIRING AIR QUALITY;

- AND WE MUST IDENTIFY THOSE SOURCES THAT PRESENT THE GREATEST RISK TO AIR QUALITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH, AND THEN USE ALL OF THE

TOOLS AVAILABLE TO US IN OECA, INCLUDING COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE, PROPERLY TARGETED ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS, AND CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT, TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF ILLEGAL EMISSIONS;

- BECAUSE I HOPE TO BE PART OF THE PROCESS THAT HELPS TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY FOR EVERYONE;

- AND IN TOXICS, AND SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTE OR RCRA, WE MUST CONTINUE TO WORK WITH OUR COLLEAGUES IN THE MEDIA OFFICES AND IN THE REGIONS TO ENSURE THAT COMPANIES ARE ABIDING BY THEIR LEGAL OBLIGATIONS, AND HANDLING WASTE PROPERLY;

AND WE MUST ENSURE THAT OUR FEDERAL PARTNERS ARE ALSO LIVING UP TO THEIR OWN ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES, BECAUSE WE CAN ONLY EXPECT OF OTHERS WHAT WE DEMAND OF OURSELVES;

IN SUPERFUND, A SUBJECT WHICH WE NEW JERSEYANS KNOW ALL TOO WELL, WE MUST CONTINUE TO APPLY THE "POLLUTER PAYS" PRINCIPLE, AND MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PURSUE AGGRESSIVELY THOSE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTRIBUTING WASTE TO A CONTAMINATED SITE; AND WE MUST MAKE SURE THAT AS MANY SUPERFUND SITES ARE CLEANED UP AS QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY AS POSSIBLE, SO THAT THEY CAN BE BROUGHT BACK TO PRODUCTIVE USE;

- AND WE WILL DO ALL OF THIS, AND OECA WILL WORK TO PROTECT OUR LAND;

- BUT NONE OF THIS WILL BE EASY, ESPECIALLY IN A WORLD OF LIMITED RESOURCES; AND SO ONE OF THE CHALLENGES WE FACE IS HOW TO DIRECT OUR WORK SMARTLY AND EFFICIENTLY;

- THROUGH THE OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE, WE WILL USE THE DATA THAT WE COLLECT ON A REGULAR BASIS, THROUGH OUR PERMIT COMPLIANCE SYSTEM, AND RCRAinfo, AND CLEAN AIR ACT DATA, AND WORK WITH THE REGIONS TO IDENTIFY THOSE AREAS OR REGULATED ENTITIES THAT PRESENT THEMSELVES AS PROBLEM OR PERSISTENT OFFENDERS;

- WE WILL ALSO USE THE DATA TO ANALYZE THE IMPACTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES, AND HELP TO MAKE SURE THAT NO COMMUNITY IS BEARING MORE THAN ITS FAIR SHARE OF ENVIRONMENTAL BURDENS;

- BECAUSE THE INFORMATION WE COLLECT CAN AND WILL HELP US BE SMARTER ABOUT THE COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT WORK WE DO; SO THAT WE CAN GET THE MOST BANG FOR OUR ENVIRONMENTAL BUCK;

- I HAVE ALREADY SEEN SOME OF THESE INCREDIBLE ANALYTICAL TOOLS,
AND THEY WILL HELP US AS WE MOVE OUR PROGRAM FORWARD TO MAKE
OUR ENVIRONMENT BETTER;

- AND IN ALL OF THESE AREAS, INCLUDING CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT FOR
THE WORST OFFENDERS, WE MUST CONTINUE TO BRING WHAT I BELIEVE ARE
SOME CORE VALUES TO THE PROCESS;

- AS I TESTIFIED AT MY CONFIRMATION HEARING, THERE ARE SOME GUIDING
PRINCIPLES THAT I HOLD AND THAT GUIDE ME IN MY WORK AS AN
ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL, AND INDEED GUIDE ME IN MY LIFE; AND THEY ARE
PRINCIPLES THAT I CHERISH;

- BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT IN ORDER TO BE A GOOD ENFORCEMENT
OFFICIAL, AND IN ORDER TO LEAD THIS OFFICE, YOU MUST HAVE CORE
PRINCIPLES;

- AND IN WORKING TOWARDS GETTING CLEAN AIR, PURE WATER, AND
BETTER PROTECTED LAND, WE MUST FIRST APPROACH OUR JOB WITH
FAIRNESS;

- FOR NO MATTER OUR PERSPECTIVE AS ENFORCERS OF THE LAW, WE MUST NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF THE FACT THAT OUR GOAL IS TO BE FAIR TO EVERYONE THAT WE DEAL WITH;

- FAIR IN WHAT WE ASK FOR, AND FAIR IN HOW WE DEAL WITH THE REGULATED UNIVERSE;

- I MAY NOT WIN MANY FRIENDS IN THIS JOB, BUT I WILL NEVER COMPROMISE MY SENSE OF FAIRNESS; AND THIS OFFICE WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE WHAT IS FAIR AND JUST, AND WHAT IS RIGHT;

- SECOND, WE MUST BE FLEXIBLE IN HOW WE ACHIEVE OUR GOALS;

- A RIGID DEVOTION TO PROCESS CAN ONLY SERVE TO DEADEN THE CREATIVE AND THOUGHTFUL APPROACHES THAT SOMETIMES PRODUCE THE BEST ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS;

- AND SO WE MUST BE FLEXIBLE IN OUR APPROACHES TO ENFORCING THE LAW, SO THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO FIND INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS THAT PRODUCE RESULTS;

- AND FINALLY, WE MUST HAVE FAITH; FAITH IN THE SYSTEM, IN OUR CONGRESS, THAT PRODUCES OUR LAWS THAT WE MUST ENFORCE, AND FAITH IN THE COURTS, WHO WE MUST TURN TO IN INTERPRETING AND APPLYING THOSE LAWS;

- BECAUSE THIS SYSTEM OR OURS HAS NEVER FAILED US, AND WE MUST NOT FAIL IT;

- FOR ME PERSONALLY, I MUST ALSO REMEMBER THE FAITH OF MY FAMILY, THAT HAS SO SHAPED MY LIFE AND GUIDES ME EVERYDAY;

- AND I MUST REMEMBER THE FAITH OF MY GOD, WHOSE LOVING AND GUIDING HAND I SEE EVERY DAY; I HAVE ONLY RECENTLY COME TO LEARN THROUGH THE TEACHING OF PASTOR FRANK IPPOLITO HOW POWERFUL THAT FAITH CAN BE, AND AS I BEGIN THIS JOURNEY HERE, I AM COMFORTED BY THAT LOVING AND GRACIOUS PRESENCE OF GOD;

- AND SO, WITH THESE PRINCIPLES OF FAIRNESS, AND FLEXIBILITY, AND FAITH IN THE SYSTEM, AND WITH THE TERRIFIC STAFF IN THE OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE, THE CHALLENGES AHEAD SEEM SURMOUNTABLE; THE GOALS REACHABLE;

- AND IT IS MY HOPE, INDEED MY EXPECTATION, THAT WHEN OUR TERM IS UP HERE, I WILL BE ABLE TO TELL MY CHILDREN THAT WE HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF MANY;

- THAT WE HAVE WORKED TO MAKE THE AIR CLEANER, AND THAT OUR WATER IS SO MUCH PURER;

- THAT WE HAVE TAKEN STEPS AT PROTECTING OUR LAND, AND MAKING IT SAFE;

- I HOPE THAT I WILL BE ABLE TO TELL THEM THAT WE HAVE BEEN GOOD STEWARDS, AND THAT WE CAN BE PROUD OF OUR EFFORTS;

- GOVERNOR, I LOOK FORWARD TO THE CHALLENGES AHEAD, AND I THANK YOU FOR PUTTING YOUR TRUST IN ME TO HELP GET THAT JOB DONE. BUT WITH THE TERRIFIC EMPLOYEES IN OECA AND IN THIS AGENCY, I THINK YOU NEED NOT WORRY;

- THE JOB WILL GET DONE; AND WE WILL SERVE YOU WELL.

- THANK YOU, AND GODSPEED TO YOU ALL.

-